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Judge Rejects Bevel Request To Defend Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Rev. James Bevel, an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been turned down in his attempt to help defend the man charged with King's slaying.

Judge W. Preson Battle said he had rejected Bevel's request because Bevel is not a lawyer. Battle said he met with Bevel yesterday and told him law degree is required to practice law in Tennessee.

Bevel has said he has evidence to prove James Earl Ray is innocent of the slaying.

Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded by King, declined to discuss any of the evidence he said he had.



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